

Minutes
Woodstock Agriculture Commission
Monday, February 9, 2015 - 1:00 PM - Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Members: R. Seybolt, R. Norman, D. Young, L. Weaver. Alternate: P. Miller, L. Auger, J. Hermonot

I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by R. Seybolt at 1:04 p.m.

II. Assignment of Alternates – L. Auger was assigned as member.

III. Public Participation:

- a. Dawn Adiletta, representing the Open-Space Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Committee, spoke about their latest acquisition; May Farm. She stated that it would be going to referendum soon; it is under \$100,000 and the money needed is in their budget, therefore no town vote is necessary. Currently, Matt Peckham is farming the property. The State hopes to close in May or June 2015.
- b. Matt Snurkowski, representing the ERCCD, talked about the Small Farm Manure BMP Assistance grant which he is working on with local horse farms. He asked that we reach out to all the horse farms in case they missed any. They are trying to identify the smaller farms. The purpose of the grant is to help protect the quality impaired Little River and Mashamoquet Brook watersheds. Action: L. Auger to send grant information to emails lists.

IV. Minutes of the January meeting: R. Norman moved to accept the minutes and D. Young seconded. Voted and approved.

V. Old Business:

- a. WINY Farmer Talks – no report.
- b. Schools & Business Buy Local List – no report.
- c. POCD – Members were reminded of upcoming P&Z meeting.
- d. Contact Information – **Action:** L. Auger received additional contact information and will email all members.
- e. Perrin/Quarry Rd. Timber Harvest – D. Young participated in the walk through and stated that he thought Trowbridge did a very good job. He stated that the property had prime trees for harvest.
- f. Town Owned Properties – Members were able to view the large format map that S. Morse created.
- g. Woodstock Grown Brochures – R. Seybolt reported that at the Regional Ag Commission meeting, it was suggested that the commissions needing to go to print, do so together in order to obtain better pricing. **Action:** L. Auger to continue working on updating the WAGC brochure in time to go to print in April.

VI. New Business:

- a. Advocate – It as announced that the Advocate meeting was scheduled for March 14 in Haddam.
- b. Legislative Session – P. Miller stated that M. Alberts had sponsored a bill to have the definition of agriculture include weddings and events. L. Auger stated that the bill Taylor Brooke Winery asked for, a change in the Farm Winery Act to include the ability to sell brandy made from CT fruit but distilled off-site at a CT distillery was heading to public hearing. P. Miller also reported that the price of milk has gone way down due to reduced exports (China) and also because it is somewhat cyclical.
- c. Soil information for BOS – tabled for next meeting
- d. Killingly Ag Event – Members were reminded that the event is on 2/11/15.
- e. New England Regional Agriculture Marketing Conference – Members were reminded that this event is 2/25/-2/26/15 in Sturbridge, MA.
- f. Proposed Equestrian Academy – After much discussion about the issue of an Equestrian Academy requiring a special permit under current P&Z regulations it was voted on unanimously to support the McMahon application with a written statement to be submitted at the P&Z hearing. The WAGC members all felt that this should be considered agriculture and thus not needing a special permit, however, the regulations state otherwise, and must be followed.

VII. Announcements

- a. WAGC has a copy of the Tool Kit for CT Farmers. It will be determined at a later date where to keep it for residents to borrow. **Action:** R. Seybolt to request more copies for WAGC members.
- b. FSA has developed a pilot program called *Bridges of Opportunity*, which they hope will be a one stop shopping for agriculture resources. CT is one of the states where the pilot will be tested.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned by R. Seybolt at 2:40 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 1pm in the lower level of the conference room of the Town Hall.